



	YESTERDAY	PREVIOUS
YEN	124.885	124.96
PESO	53.57	53.4
HK \$	7.7998	7.7996
BAHT	45.765	45.698
RUPEE	47.135	47.14
WON	1298.1	1301.25

*In U.S. dollar terms
Source: Associated Press*

INSIDE**LOCAL****Emphasis On Education**

CNMI ranked third among US states and territories whose number of General Education Development test-takers surged in 2000, a government report revealed. Education officials attribute the increase to the new GED test series which will replace the current one in January 2002. **3**

THE ECONOMY**No Vacancy**

Japan's jobless rate remained at a record high 4.9 percent in June, unchanged from the previous month, but underscoring severe employment conditions as the economy deteriorates. The number of jobless rose for the third straight month to 3.38 million, up 170,000 from May. **11**

SAI**Homebound**

A US-linked Chinese scholar freed on medical parole will likely leave for the United States this week. Qin Guangguang, paroled by Beijing last week following pressure from Washington, went first to visit his sick mother in the southwestern province of Sichuan because he fears China will not allow him back once he leaves. **15**

THE NATION**To A Better FBI**

FBI Director-designate Robert Mueller vowed Monday to move forcefully to fix problems at the agency, then clashed with a leading Republican over how much information he would give an increasingly vigilant Congress. **16**

THE WORLD**Can't Please 'em All**

European leaders and the continent's press may get upset at President Bush's go-it-alone attitude, but the hard reality is Europe has no choice but to cut the best deals it can with its most powerful ally. **18**



Ever heard of the story about a family who never learned how to live in both "good and bad times"? A Saina!

Missing Chinese feared dead

• Authorities call off rescue operations

By JOHN RAVELO
Staff Reporter

Authorities decided to call off the rescue operations to locate the three Chinese nationals who remain missing after their boat capsized off Tinian Sunday, raising fears that the victims may already be dead.

The decision came as government operatives strongly suspect that the Chinese nationals are part of human smuggling operations even if the Department of Labor and Immigration's head office on Saipan did not confirm the aliens' immigration status in the CNMI.

"Right now, we're still zero. We might call it off this evening," Emer-

gency Management Office Director Gregorio DeLeon Guerrero said by telephone yesterday afternoon. "We're going to presume that they're missing at sea."

The missing Chinese were part of a group of six who were aboard the ill-fated vessel.

But the EMO, through its Operations Section, did not confirm if there was any change to the plan to call off operations last night when contacted by the Tribune at about past 7 p.m.

"Maybe, they made it to land. Maybe, they're hiding," remarked Guerrero, implying that the missing aliens, though they may have survived the sea tragedy, have been illegally staying in the CNMI.

He said the three survivors that include two women are in the custody of Tinian's immigration agents, but they were staying at the Department of Public Safety's headquarters on the island.

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**FAREWELL TO SUMMER**

Youth campers Lia Rangamar and Joshua Elameto wave goodbye to the camera during the conclusion of the Division of Youth Services Summer Camp last week.

EPA

Higher PSS funding hangs on thin thread

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Staff Reporter

With the killer amendments attached to it by the Senate, the initiative that would have increased the budget of the Public School System by 10 percent has virtually zero chances now of being passed into law.

This developed after House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial said that the House of Representatives has no plans of touching House Legislative Initiative 12-001 due to the defective amendments made on the initiative.

"We will not touch it. We will never touch that bill as it was amended by the

Senate because, in the first place, those amendments are nonsensical," Fitial stressed.

"I care about education but I will not support a bill that would maim the government and effectively destroy education," he added.

The initiative, as offered by Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan and passed by the Lower Chamber, aimed to amend the Commonwealth Constitution by increasing the PSS' mandatory fund-

ing from the present 15 percent to 25 percent of the General Fund.

However, during deliberations on the measure at the Senate, Sen. Ramon S. Guerrero moved to amend the initiative by allocating 30 percent of the General Fund

to the PSS, another 30 percent to the Department of Public Health and another 30 percent to the Department of



Fitial



Pangelinan

Health expert warns vs. airborne diseases

By MARIAN A. MARAYA
Staff Reporter

Health experts are bracing for a wave of airborne diseases expected to hit the islands this year, known to prey on both adults and children.

Two months into the flu season, the health department is keeping a close eye on two common illnesses anticipated to affect island residents, namely; Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus.

"Influenza is probably brought over

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